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EXAMINER

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2621

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 24 April 2006 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 53 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 53, lines 18-19, there is no clear antecedent basis for "the internal memory". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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4. Claim 64 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasaki (5,034,804).

Regarding claim 64, Sasaki discloses a camera (Figs. 6A-6B) comprising a camera body; an imaging device (26) which conducts a photographing operation, wherein following the photographing operation, said imaging device outputs image information (column 6, lines 13-55) ; an inside memory (316) provided inside the camera body; a recorder which stores image information outputted from said imaging device in a memory card (15) (column 7, lines 45-65).

Sasaki further teaches a controller (241 and 317) has a detecting means (CPU 241) for detecting an available capacity of a memory card and connection of the memory card (column 8, line 65 - 68, column 9, lines 15-37, Fig. 10), determining a remaining the capacity of the memory card is sufficient for storing the second image since the remaining capacity of the memory card is checked for the next captured image after an image is captured by the memory , generating an alarm to alert the user and permitting the mage information to be stored in the memory card when the memory card is inserted in the camera and has sufficient capacity for storing the image information and storing the image information a memory when the memory card is not inserted in the camera or the memory capacity is not sufficient to store the image information .

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 52-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (5,067,029) in view of Sasaki et al (5,034,804).

Regarding claims 52-55 and 64, Takahashi discloses a camera (Fig. 10, column 2, lines 32-45, column 3, lines 15-25, column 10, lines 28-41)) comprising a camera body; an imaging device (12,14) which conducts a photographing operation, wherein following the photographing operation, said imaging device outputs image information; an inside memory (40) provided inside the camera body; a connection adapted to be connected to a medium (34 or 56) inserted inside a housing provided in the camera body; a recorder which stores image information, outputted from said imaging device, in one of the inside memory and the medium (column 10, lines 30-50), and

a changer (24) which selectively determines which one of the inside memory and the medium is used to store image information outputted from said imaging device; and a controller which controls said changer so that (a) the image information is automatically stored in the medium (column 4, lines 1-5, column 7, lines 40-50, column 10, lines 30-50).

Takahashi fails to teach the medium is a memory card that is inserted in the camera using a memory card slot in the camera.

Sasaki teaches a camera (Fig. 1 and 6) having a memory card slot in the camera body used receiving a memory card (15) as an alternative medium for storing image information in order to reduce the overall size of the camera (column 1, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Sasaki by incorporating a card slot in the camera body to receive a memory card for storing the image information to reduce the size of the camera.

Takahashi fails to teach a detector which detects whether the memory card is inserted in the card slot and detects a capacity of the inserted memory card; and the detected capacity shows that the image information can be stored in the memory card, and (b) a warning is displayed when the memory card is inserted in the card slot and the detected capacity shows that the image information cannot be stored in the memory card even if the image information can be stored in the inside memory.

Sasaki teaches a camera having a detecting means (CPU 24) for detecting an available capacity of a memory card and connection of the memory card (column 8, line 65 - 68, column 9, lines 15-37, Fig. 10) and generating an alarm to alert the user and

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permitting the image information to be stored in the memory card when the memory card is inserted in the camera and has sufficient capacity for storing the image information and storing the image information in a memory when the memory card is not inserted in the camera or the memory capacity is not sufficient to store the image information .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Sasaki by using a detecting means as taught by Sasaki with the apparatus of Takahashi for detecting an available capacity of the memory and the connection of the memory card for generating a representative of the result in order to inform the user the status of the memory thereby preventing error in the recording of the image signal.

Further for claims 52-55, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches that the image information is stored in the memory card when the memory card is inserted in the card slot and the detected capacity shows that the image information can be stored in the memory card, (b) the image information is stored in the inside memory when the memory card is not inserted in the card slot, and (c) a warning is displayed when the memory card is inserted in the card slot and the detected capacity shows that the image information cannot be stored in the memory card even if the image information can be stored in the inside memory since the image information from image pickup is selectively stored in either the inside memory or memory card (Takahashi, column 4, lines 1-5, column 10, lines 30-50, Sasaki , column 8, line 55-68, column 9, lines 5-37).

Regarding claims 56-58, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches that the detector includes a memory capacity detector for detecting the capacity of the memory card by electrically accessing the memory card, and a card switch for detecting

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whether or not the memory card is inserted in the card slot (see Sasaki column 5, lines 20-30, column 9, lines 5-37).

Regarding claims 60-63, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches that the changer determines to change from a condition in which the memory card is used to store the image information to a condition in which the inside memory is used to store the image information, when the memory card is inserted in the card slot, and the detected capacity shows that the image information cannot be stored in the memory card since the combination of Takahashi and Sasaki teaches generating the alarm or message to the user indicating that the image information can not be stored in the memory card and the user can control switching from the memory card to the inside memory (Takahashi , column 4, lines 1-5, column 10, lines 30-50).

Regarding claim 65, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches storing the image in the internal memory if the remaining capacity of the memory card is not sufficient to store the image since Takahashi teaches that either one of the internal memory and memory can be selected to store the images .

Regarding claim 66, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches that the detector detecting the remaining capacity of the memory card when the memory card is inserted in the slot (Sasaki , column 9, lines 5-37)

Regarding claim 67, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches the detector detect the remaining capacity of the memory card after storing an image (column 8, lines 55-68).

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7. Claims 52-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (5,067,029) in view of Watanabe et al (4,887,161).

Regarding claims 52-55 and 64, Takahashi discloses a camera (Fig. 10, column 2, lines 32 —45, column 3, lines 15-25, column 10, lines 28-41) comprising a camera body; an imaging device (12,14) which conducts a photographing operation, wherein following the photographing operation, said imaging device outputs image information; an inside memory (40) provided inside the camera body; a connection adapted to be connected to a medium (34 or 56) inserted inside a housing provided in the camera body; a recorder which stores image information, outputted from said imaging device, in one of the inside memory and the medium (column 10, lines 30-50), and

a changer (24) which selectively determines which one of the inside memory and the medium is used to store image information outputted from said imaging device; and a controller which controls said changer so that (a) the image information is stored in the medium (column 4, lines 1-5, column 7, lines 40-50, column 10, lines 30-50).

Takahashi fails to teach the medium is a memory card that is inserted in the camera using a memory card slot in the camera.

Watanabe teaches a camera (Figs. 4-7) having a memory card slot (20) (column 4, lines 65 to column 5, lines 7) used receiving a memory card (20) as an alternative medium for storing image information in order to reduce the overall size of the camera and facilitate managing the image information (column 4, line 65 to column 5, lines 7) .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Watanabe by incorporating a card slot in the camera body of Takahashi to receive a memory card for storing the image information to reduce the size of the camera.

Takahashi fails to teach a detector which detects whether the memory card is inserted in the card slot and detects a capacity of the inserted memory card; and the detected capacity shows that the image information can be stored in the memory card, and (b) a warning is displayed when the memory card is inserted in the card slot and the detected capacity shows that the image information cannot be stored in the memory card even if the image information can be stored in the inside memory.

Watanabe teaches a camera (Fig. 4) having a detecting means (11) for detecting an available capacity of a memory card and connection of the memory card and generating an alarm by detecting the blank areas in the memory card and displaying the remaining number of frames in the memory card that to be stored with the image information (column 4, lines 65 to column 5, line 38, column, 3, lines 30-35, Figs. 1,2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Watanabe by using a detecting means as taught by Watanabe with the apparatus of Takahashi for detecting an available capacity of the memory and the connection of the memory card for generating a representative of the result in order to inform the user the status of the memory thereby preventing error in the recording of the image signal.

Further for claims 52-55, Takahashi as modified with Watanabe further teaches that the image information is stored in the memory card when the memory card is

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inserted in the card slot and the detected capacity shows that the image information can be stored in the memory card, (b) the image information is stored in the inside memory when the memory card is not inserted in the card slot, and (c) a warning is displayed when the memory card is inserted in the card slot and the detected capacity shows that the image information cannot be stored in the memory card even if the image information can be stored in the inside memory since the image information from image pickup is selectively stored in either the inside memory or memory card (See Takahashi, column 4, lines 1-5, column 10, lines 30-50, Watanabe (column 4, line 65 to column 5, lines 35))

Regarding claims 56-58, Takahashi as modified with Watanabe further teaches that the detector includes a memory capacity detector for detecting the capacity of the memory card by electrically accessing the memory card, and a card switch for detecting whether or not the memory card is inserted in the card slot (see Watanabe column 4 line 65 to column 5, line 15).

Regarding claims 60-63, Takahashi as modified with Watanabe further teaches that the changer determines to change from a condition in which the memory card is used to store the image information to a condition in which the inside memory is used to store the image information, when the memory card is inserted in the card slot, and the detected capacity shows that the image information cannot be stored in the memory card since the combination of Takahashi and Watanabe teaches generating the alarm or message to the user indicating that the image information can not be stored in the memory card (Watanabe, column 4 line 65 to column 5, line 37) and the user can

control switching from the memory card to the inside memory (Takahashi teaches the user can select either a inside memory or a medium to store the image information , column 4, lines 1-5, column 10, lines 30-50 and Watanabe using the memory card for storing mage information) .

Regarding claim 65, Takahashi as modified with Watanabe further teaches storing the image in the internal memory if the remaining capacity of the memory card is not sufficient to store the image since Takahashi teaches that either one of the internal memory and memory card can be selected to store the images .

Regarding claim 66, Takahashi as modified wit Watanabe further teaches that the detector detecting the remaining capacity of the memory card when the memory card is inserted in the slot. (See Watanabe, column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 35).

Regarding claim 67, Takahashi as modified with Watanabe further teaches the detector detect the remaining capacity of the memory card after storing an images (See Watanabe column 5, lines 1-30).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 18 May 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 64, Applicants argue that Sasaki does not teach that the capacity of the memory card is check after an image is stored in the memory card .

In response the examiner disagrees . It is noted that Sasaki teaches that the images from an imaging device (image sensor or image pickup) are captured by the memory card , after one image is captured (stored) by the memory card , the remaining capacity of the memory card is checked for capturing the next image (second mage) in response to the input of the user . If the memory card has no sufficient room (remaining capacity) for capturing the next image, a warning signal is generated to alter a user to replace the memory card. It is clear that Sasaki teaches detecting the remaining capacity of the memory card after a picture has been captured and stored in the memory card.

Regarding claims 52-55 , Applicant argues that the combination of Takahashi with Sasaki or Watanabe does not teach storing the images in the memory card without using the inside memory . In response, the examiner disagree . It is noted that Takahashi teaches the images from an imaging device is automatically stored in an external memory (removable memory) without using an inside memory since Takahashi teaches that images from the imaging device is stored in either one of the inside memory or external memory ((Figs. 7-9). Using a memory card , taught y Sasaki or Watanabe , as the external memory of Takahashi apparatus , the combination of Takahashi and Sasaki or Watanabe teaches a camera having a inside memory, a memory card and a controller for automatically storing the images from an imaging device in the memory card when the memory card has sufficient room for storing the images.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7378. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM -6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

H.N


HUY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER